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8 if the packets are not synchronized, monitoring the data stored into the
9 buffer for encoded images that are not used to decode any other image and discarding
10 video PES packets corresponding to the encoded images that are not used to decode any
11 other image until the audio and video PES packets are synchronized in time.

1 5. Apparatus for storing video and audio data which has been
2 compressed according to a standard specified by the Moving Pictures Experts Group
3 (MPEG), the method comprising:

4 a transport decoder that receives a bit-stream including the compressed
5 audio and video data formatted as transport packets and that reformats the compressed
6 audio and video data into respective program elementary stream (PES) packets;

7 a disk drive onto which the audio and video PES packets are recorded;

8 an audio buffer memory for retrieving and storing the audio PES packets
9 from the disk;

10 a video buffer memory for retrieving and storing the video PES packets
11 from the disk; and

12 an MPEG decoder, coupled to receive the audio and video PES packets
13 from the respective audio and video buffer memories.

1 6. Apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the audio buffer memory
2 has an amount of memory sufficient to provide the MPEG decoder with audio data for
3 an amount of time in which no data is stored into the buffer due to a soft error on the
4 disk.

1 7. Apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the audio buffer memory
2 has an amount of memory sufficient to hold encoded audio data representing
3 approximately ten seconds of audio output.

1 8. Apparatus according to claim 6 wherein:
2 the disk provides a signal indicating that a soft error has occurred;
3 the MPEG decoder, responsive to the soft error signal from the disk,
4 repeatedly displays a current frame; and
5 the apparatus further comprises:

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